

Attorney Dkt. No. P-15149  
Serial No. 09/431,159  
Filed: November 1, 1999

amendment. Attachment A contains a marked-up copy of the claim amendments, while Attachment B contains a clean copy of the amended claims.

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 1 is pending in the application. Claim 1 is an independent claim drawn to an apparatus for processing heavy hydrocarbon feed. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify what the Applicant considers to be the invention and to clarify the distinctions between the inventive subject matter and the prior art references. Applicant further submits that the amendments to the claims do not add new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Claims 1-3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1, 3 and 10 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over van Klinken (U.S. Patent No. 4,039,429) in view of Friday et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,627) and claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over van Klinken in view of Friday et al., and further in view of Bigeard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,153,087).

With entry of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully